

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) An apparatus for dyeing fibers or filaments comprising:  
a plurality of prewetting troughs;  
a plurality of dye baths;  
a drying arrangement; and  
a supporting system comprising a porous fabric belt, means to form a fabric tubular roll from the said porous fabric belt for carrying the fibers or filaments and means to guide said fabric tubular roll along with fibers and filaments guided to pass through the pre-wetting troughs, the dye baths and the drying arrangement for carrying the fibers or filaments for dyeing the said fibers or filaments continuously and homogeneously.

Claims 2-5 cancelled.

6. (currently amended) An apparatus for dyeing fibers or filaments of ~~claim 2~~  
claim 1, wherein the belt is a synthetic or natural fabric.

7. (currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in ~~claim 2~~ claim 1, wherein the belt is a blended fabric.

8. (previously presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the supporting system is inert to dyeing.

Claim 9 cancelled.

10. (currently amended) A method for dyeing fibers or filaments comprising:  
supporting the fibers on a porous belt and simultaneously forming a fabric tubular roll of the said belt of the supporting system for surrounding the fibers or filaments~~carrying the fibers in a fabric roll of a supporting system;~~  
guiding the ~~supporting system~~ fabric tubular roll comprising fibers or filaments to pass through pre-wetting troughs for pre-wetting the fibers or filaments, die baths for dyeing the fibers or filaments and a drying arrangement for drying the fibers or filaments wherein said fabric tubular roll being porous enables dyeing of fibers continuously and homogenously;  
and  
separately drying the fibers or filaments~~from the supporting system, wherein the supporting system enables drying of fibers or filaments continuously and homogenously by~~  
deforming said fabric tubular roll.

11. (cancelled)

12. (previously presented) A method for dyeing fibers or filaments as claimed in claim 10, wherein the fibers or filaments for dyeing includes the fibers or filaments selected from the group of cotton, other natural fibers, man made fibers, synthetic fibers, filaments and a combination thereof.

13. (previously presented) A method for dyeing fibers or filaments as claimed in claim 10, wherein the fiber is cotton fiber.

14. (previously presented) A method for dyeing fibers or filaments as claimed in ~~claim 13, further comprising the step of preparing a fiber rope for carrying cotton fibers~~claim 10,  
wherein the fibers are carried in either loose form, sliver form, intermediate form or rope form.

15. (previously presented) A method for dyeing fibers or filaments as claimed in claim 10, wherein the dye is selected from the group consisting of indigo, vat dye, reactive dye and the like, or a combination thereof.

16. (previously presented) A method for dyeing fibers or filaments as claimed in claim 10, wherein the at least one fiber or filament is indigo dyed.

Claims 17-26 cancelled.